

CA. S. 721

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Fortifications and Defence, Arms, &c.

Laid before Parliament by Command of His Excellency the Governor General.

MESSAGE.

JOHN YOUNG.

The Governor General transmits for the consideration of the House of Commons, the Report of the Delegates to England of their correspondence with Her Majesty's Government on the subject of Fortifications, Defence, &c.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ottawa, 11th June, 1869.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 11th June, 1868.

The Committee have had under consideration the Report of the Hon. Sir George Et. Cartier, Bart., and the Hon. Wm. Macdougall, C. B., and accompanying documents, submitted in pursuance of the instructions contained in the Order in Council of 1st October last, whereby they were authorized to confer with H. M. Government during their stay in England, on the subject of Fortifications and the Defence of Canada generally.

The Report and documents alluded to have reference--

1st. To the representations made by them to H. M. Secretary of State for the Colonies, respecting the granting of the Imperial guarantee for the loan required for the contemplated Fortifications.

2nd. To the expediency, as urged by them on H. M. Government, of maintaining in the Dominion as large a Force of Regular Troops as possible.

3rd. The inadvisability of withdrawing from Canada, as proposed by the War Office, of the proportion of breech-loading Arms and Ammunition hitherto kept in reserve in the Dominion.

4th. The correspondence had by them with the Imperial authorities respecting a claim preferred against Canada for a sum of £847 18s. 3½d., being for damage caused to the Enfield rifles issued on loan to this Government and lately returned into store.

The Committee fully concur in the representations made and the proceedings taken by the Delegates in the several matters above referred to, and advise that their Report and accompanying documents be laid before Parliament by Message from Your Excellency.

Certified,

WM. H. LEE,

Clerk, Privy Council.

REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN YOUNG Bart. G. C. B.,
G. C. M. G., Governor General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.

IN COUNCIL.

We, the undersigned, having been specially authorized by Order in Council of 1st October last, to confer with Her Majesty's Government, during our stay in England, on the subject of Fortifications and the Defence of Canada generally, had the honor to have several communications with the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and through him, with the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War on those important questions.

In the first place, on the subject of Fortifications, we reminded Earl Granville that the Canadian Government was as yet without an answer to their representations conveyed in Lord Monk's Despatch of 27th May, 1868, last, respecting the granting of the Imperial guarantee for the loan required for the construction of the Fortifications contemplated by the Act of last session.

Secondly, We deemed it our duty strongly to urge on Her Majesty's Government the necessity of keeping and maintaining in the Dominion as large a force of Her Majesty's Regular Troops as possible.

Earl Granville informed us in reply that the views entertained by Her Majesty's Government on these two points should be conveyed in a Despatch to your Excellency, and accordingly, since our return to Canada the subjoined Despatch under date 14th April, 1869 has been received intimating the intention of the Government to introduce a measure during the present session of the Imperial Legislature to authorize the guarantee of the sum required for the contemplated Fortification, and intimating, with respect to the Regular Force to be maintained in Canada, that although for the reasons therein assigned, full effect cannot be given to our views as above expressed, yet, that a limited number of Troops will for the present continue to be stationed at certain points in the Dominion.

During our stay in England we received from Earl Granville a communication, dated 22nd February, 1869, enclosing copies of two letters from the War Office, the first relating to the number of breech-loading arms, either appropriated for the local forces or held in reserve, and to the supply of ammunition in store in Canada, and proposing to withdraw a large portion of both unless the Canadian Government should express a desire to purchase any of such arms. And the second preferring a claim on the Government of the Dominion for a sum of £847 18s 3d being for damage caused to the Enfield rifles issued on loan to this Government and lately returned into store.

On these subjects we had personal interviews with Earl Granville and subsequently embodied our views thereon in a letter to his Lordship dated 23rd March, 1869, in which we remonstrated against the proposed reduction of the number of arms and quantity of ammunition held in reserve in Canada on the ground that if, in addition to the reduction of the regular troops, it became known that a diminution of the number of Snider rifles in the regular troops, it became known that a diminution of the number of Snider rifles in the reserve had also taken place, encouragement might thereby be given to the Fenian organization, which still existed in the United States, to renew their attempts to invade our soil.

Moreover, that the new Canadian Militia Act had made provision for the regular training of a certain number of extra militiamen, and of the Reserve Force, which would require, at least, 65,000 rifles or nearly the entire number intended to be left in Canada for the ordinary colonial force, leaving no reserve to meet any case of sudden emergency.

With reference to the offer made for the purchase by the Canadian Government of a portion of these arms, we represented to Earl Granville that as the subject was not one specially connected with our mission, and as it would involve an appropriation of money by the Canadian Parliament, we requested that instructions for the withdrawal of such arms and ammunition would be deferred until after we should have had an opportunity of submitting the matter for the consideration of your Excellency in Council.

No decision on these two questions had been conveyed to us prior to our departure for Canada, but, since our return a Despatch (No. 75) under date of 24th April last has been received from Earl Granville communicating to your Excellency a correspondence between the colonial and war offices, from which it appears that as regards the first proposition, viz: the number of breech-loading rifles to be left in Canada, the Secretary of State for War has

consented to defer the withdrawal of any portion of them or of the ammunition held in reserve, until next autumn, and that, with respect to the amount claimed for damages to arms issued on loan, Mr. Cardwell, for the reasons given in the letter of 20th April last, from Sir Edward Lugard to Sir Frederic Rogers, does not feel warranted in relinquishing the claim.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. ET. CARTIER,
WM. McDOUGALL.

Ottawa, 20th May, 1869.

DOWNING STREET,
22 February, 1869.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you the enclosed copies of two letters which have been received from the war office, the first relating to the number of breechloading arms, and the amount of ammunition necessary to be held in Canada as a reserve; the second preferring a claim on the Canadian Government for £847 18s. 3d., on account of damage, &c., caused to the Enfield rifles issued on loan to the Canadian Government, and lately returned into store. Lord Grenville would be glad to be furnished with any observations which you may wish to offer on the points to which these letters relate.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

FREDERIC ROGERS.

Sir G. E. Cartier, Bart, }
and
W. McDougall, Esq., C. B. }

Sir H. Storks to the Under Secretary of State, C. O.

(Copy.)

WAR OFFICE,
11th February, 1869.

SIR,—I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that consequent upon the reductions which it has been decided to make in the force now stationed in the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Secretary Cardwell has had under his consideration the very large supply of breech-loading arms, either appropriated for the local forces in the Dominion, or held in reserve at the several depots, to meet any requirements which might arise; as also the supply of ammunition of which there is a reserve of 20,000,000 rounds. The numbers of the arms of all kinds, irrespectively of those in possession of the regular troops are as follows:—

Appropriated for Colonial Forces.

Converted Snider Rifles.....	51,000
Spencer Rifles	2,000
Spencer Carbines.....	1,000
Starr Carbines.....	200
	54,200
In store as reserve, (Snider).....	31,000
	85,200

Mr. Cardwell has come to the conclusion that so large a reserve as 31,000 first class arms is much greater than it is absolutely requisite to retain in the Dominion under existing circumstances, and as arms of this description are much needed to meet the requirements of the Imperial Service, and to aid in making up the deficiency which at present exists in the

number authorized to be maintained as a reserve in this country, he proposes to withdraw from Canada 25,000 Snider rifles, and 10,000,000 rounds of ammunition, but before giving instructions to this effect, Mr. Cardwell will be glad to learn whether Lord Granville thinks the Government of the Dominion would like to purchase any of the arms, as if so, he will defer the order so as to give the government the opportunity of so doing.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

H. K. STORKS,
The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Sir E. Lugard to the Under Secretary of State C. O.

Copy.

WAR OFFICE,
12th February, 1869.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Cardwell to transmit for the consideration of Earl Granville the enclosed copy of a correspondence which has passed between this Department and the General Officer commanding the troops in Canada upon the subject of the damage sustained in the case of certain Enfield rifles issued from Imperial Stores upon loan to the Canadian Government and lately returned in consequence of their being replaced by Snider rifles.

Lord Granville will perceive that General Windham caused an inspection of a portion of these arms to be made in the presence of a Militia Officer and a claim amounting to £847. 18s. 3d. for damages and deficiencies to be preferred upon the Government of the Dominion.

As the regulations of 1862 under which supplies are made to Colonial Militia and Volunteers, especially provide that Colonial Governments shall be held responsible for the arms, which shall moreover be kept in good condition, Mr. Cardwell does not conceive that there can be any doubt as to the propriety of the call thus made upon the Canadian Government by the Lieutenant General.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

EDWARD LUGARD.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Lt. General Windham to the Secretary of State, W. O.

Copy.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Montreal, 7th February, 1868.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a Copy of a proposal of the Deputy Superintendent of Stores that the damages to the Enfield rifles lent to the Militia and now being returned in consequence of the issue of Sniders may be assessed in England.

His Excellency the Governor General has consented to this arrangement and to the charges for damages and deficiencies being settled between the two Governments through the Colonial Office.

I now beg to enclose a return shewing how many of these Enfields have been handed in up to this date and to inform you that I again have urged on His Excellency the Governor General the expediency of their return being completed at as early date as possible.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

C. A. WINDHAM,
Lt. General,
Comd. the Forces in B. N. America.

The Rt. Honble.†
The Secretary of State for War.

The Dy. Superintendent of Stores to Military Secretary, Montreal.
Copy.

MILITARY STORE OFFICE,
Montreal, 30th August, 1867.

SIR,—With reference to the Enfield Rifles which have been in use by the Militia, and which the Lieutenant General has ordered to be sent home on freight in consequence of the impossibility of procuring conveyance for them on board of any Government Vessel. I beg respectfully to suggest that these arms before shipment should be examined in the Military Stores at Quebec to ascertain that they are properly packed in the chests and will suffer no damage in that respect from the voyage; but I would submit that their inspection by a Board or Boards of Officers with a view to the assessment of damages may be dispensed with, and that the question of the condition in which the arms are returned should be left for the consideration of the authorities in England.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

EDWD. WILGRESS,
For Deputy Supt

The Military Secretary,
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WINDHAM,
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Copy.

MILITARY STORE OFFICE,
Montreal, 23rd January, 1868

STATEMENT showing the number of arms, &c., issued from the Imperial Stores in Canada on Loan to the Canadian Government, the number returned, and those remaining in possession at the present time.

	Enfield Rifles Pattern 1853.	Short Rifles Pattern 1856.	Carbine Pattern 1856.	Carbine Pattern 1853.	Spencer's Re- peating Mus- ket.	Spencer's Re- peating Car- bine.	Wesby Ri- chard's Mus- ket.	Swords, Cavalry with Scabbards Pat. 1853.	Sword Bayonet Brunswick Rifle.	Sword Bayonet Pattern 1856.
Total numbers issued	29,310	2,651	500	537	2,000	900	1,665	500	25	18
Returned into Store, Quebec and Mon- treal	23,657	1,431	.....	294	.....	.....	1,665	.....	.....	.....
Remaining in possession of Canadian } Government	5,653	1,200	500	243	2,000	300	.....	500	25	18
Shipped to England per "Annie Foster"	1,600	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Remaining at Quebec for shipment	7,657	1,431	.....	294	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	23,657	1,431	.....	294	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

The Military Secretary,
Montreal.

(Signed.) F. A. GALLELLY,
Deputy Superintendent

Lord Longford to the Lieut. Genl. Commanding Her Majesty's Forces, British North America.

Copy.

$\frac{57}{5487}$

WAR OFFICE,
21st March, 1868.

SIR:—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated the 7th ultimo covering communication from the Deputy Superintendent of Stores at Montreal, proposing that the damages to the Enfield rifles lent to the Militia and now being returned to store in the place of Snider arms may be assessed in England.

I am directed by Secretary Sir John Pakington, to acquaint you that as it has been found impossible to levy any charges upon the arms which have already been sent home from Montreal per the "Annie Foster," owing to the condition in which they were received from the effects of the voyage, he is of opinion that with a view to avoid the casualties of transport by sea, Boards of Survey should be assembled on the spot to view the arms and assess the damages thereto or deficiencies previously to their being despatched to this country.

And I am therefore to request that you will be pleased to take the necessary steps for causing any assessment of damages to be made prior to the shipment of the arms to England.

I have, &c.,

(Signed.)

LONGFORD.

The Lieut. General Commanding
Her Majesty's Forces in
British North America,
Montreal.

Lieut. Genl.; Windham to the Secretary of State for War.

(Copy.)

HEAD QUARTERS—CANADA,
Montreal, 22nd January, 1869.

SIR,—In compliance with the instructions in your letter $\frac{57}{4670}$ of 21st March, 1868, the arms delivered into store at Quebec by the Volunteer Militia, were inspected there, a Militia Officer having been present on the part of the Canadian Government.

Bills for damages and deficiencies to these arms amounting to £347 18s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. sterling, were presented to the Militia Department on the 8th October 1868, and in reply to a renewed application for payment, I have been informed that the bills are in the hands of the Minister of Militia who is now in England.

As Sir G. E. Cartier may bring the subject of these claims before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I think it only right that I should state to you that, in my opinion, there is no ground whatever for withdrawing the claim made on this account against the Canadian Government.

The arms were issued most freely in very large quantities under the Regulations dated War Office, 27th March, 1862, which stipulate for their return in good order, fair wear and tear excepted.

Sufficient care has not been taken of these arms, and besides providing funds for putting them into repair, the exaction of the payment of the bills which have been presented, will be useful in impressing upon the Militia Department the importance of increased attention to the preservation of the valuable arms (Breech loaders) now for a second time in a few years put into the hands of the Canadian Forces by the liberality of England.

I have, &c.,

(Signed.)

C. A. WINDHAM,

Lieut. General Commanding the Forces
in British North America.

The Right Honorable
The Secretary of State for War,
&c., &c., &c.

WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL,
23rd March, 1869.

Sir,—We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 22nd February last accompanied with copies of the two letters from the war office, directed by Earl Granville to be transmitted to us. The first relating to the number of breech-loading arms and the amount of ammunition necessary to be held in Canada as a reserve; the second preferring a claim on the Canadian Government for £847 13s. 3^d., on account of damages, &c., caused to the Enfield rifles issued on loan to the Canadian Government, and lately returned into store.

You kindly state to us in your letter that Earl Granville would be glad to be furnished with any observations which we might like to offer on the points to which the two letters from the war office relate, and we have much pleasure in availing ourselves of the opportunity given us to comply with his Lordship's wishes.

1stly. On the letter relating to the number of breech-loading arms and the amount of ammunition necessary to be held as a reserve in Canada, we remark that the right honorable the Secretary of War proposes to withdraw from Canada 25,000 Snider rifles and 10,000,000 rounds of ammunition, but before giving instructions to that effect Mr. Cardwell would be glad to learn whether the Government of the Dominion would like to purchase any of the arms, as if so, he will defer the order so as to give the Government the opportunity of so doing.

With regard to the question of the purchase by the Canadian Government of any of the arms referred to before, we beg leave to submit for the information of Earl Granville that as this question is not one of those specially connected with our mission to the Imperial Government, and as it would involve an appropriation of money by the "Canadian Parliament," we beg that Earl Granville will have the kindness to request the Secretary of War to postpone the giving of his instructions for the withdrawal of any of these arms until after we shall have had an opportunity of submitting the matter to and for the consideration of the Governor in Council upon our return to Canada.

In connection with the question of the propriety of diminishing the supply of the reserve Snider rifles and ammunition now in Canada, we beg leave also to submit to Earl Granville for the consideration of the right honorable the Secretary of War, that the Fenian organization in the United States of America is far from being extinguished, that the "Fenians" have generally selected the spring months for their active and invading operations against Canada, that if it became known that in addition to the reduction of the regular troops" a reduction of the reserve Snider rifles and ammunition in Canada had also been made, the Fenians might be encouraged during the forthcoming spring months to renew their attack of invasion of some portion of the territory of the Dominion of Canada. We beg also to submit that in the event of any sudden emergency necessitating the calling out of the Canadian Militia for actual service in any numbers beyond the service provided by law in time of peace, the reduction of the Regular Force in Canada, now determined upon by the Imperial Government must render it more instead of less urgent that a large reserve of arms should be at hand and available for the immediate arming of the Canadian levies.

We beg further to state that the new militia law prescribes that 40,000 extra militiamen shall receive in time of peace a certain amount of yearly training and prescribes also that in addition to these, the officers and non-commissioned officers of the reserve militia shall receive a certain amount of yearly training—then there will be required in Canada in time of peace for the yearly training of both the militiamen and officers above required at the least 65,000 converted Snider rifles which must nearly absorb the number of these arms intended to be left in Canada for the use of the ordinary Colonial forces, and then there will be no reserve of these arms in the case of a sudden emergency of an extraordinary levy of the Canadian militia beyond its required organization in time of peace.

We hope that the Secretary of War for the above reasons will be induced not to carry out his intention of diminishing the reserve of converted Snider rifles and ammunition in Canada.

We annex hereto and beg leave to submit for the consideration of Earl Granville, a report of Colonel Macdougall the Adjutant General of Militia of Canada, on the question of the reduction of the reserve of arms in Canada. 2ndly, with regard to the letter preferring a claim on the Canadian Government for £847 13s. 3^d., on account of damages caused to the Enfield rifles issued on loan to the Canadian Government and lately returned into store. We also beg leave to submit for the information of Earl Granville, that the damages done to

THE HOTEL,
1869.

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these arms occurred generally for wear and tear whilst in the use of the Canadian volun-
teers during active service, particularly during the Fenian troubles of 1865, 1866 and 1867,
and we beg therefore that Earl Granville may be induced to urge on the Secretary of War
the remission in favor of Canada of all claims for damages to the Enfield rifles returned in
store.

We have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed,)

G. E. CARTIER.
W. McDUGALL.

Sir Frederic Rogers,
Principal Under Secretary of
State for the Colonies, &c.,
Colonial Office, Downing-st.

Memorandum.

LONDON, March 9, 1869.

The Adjutant General of Militia has the honor to report in accordance with the desire
of the Hon. the Minister of Militia, with reference to War Office letter of 11th Feby.,
1869, (Sir H. Storks to the U. S. of State C. O.,) in which it is proposed to diminish the
supply of reserve (Snider) Rifles and ammunition now in Canada; that the question of with-
drawing reserve arms from Canada to England is one of Imperial policy, the general bearings
of which can of course be best estimated by the Imperial Government; although, in the
event of any sudden emergency requiring the Canadian Militia to be called out for service in
any numbers, the reduction of the regular force in Canada would obviously render it more,
instead of less urgent, that a large reserve of arms should be at hand and available for the
immediate arming of the Canadian levies.

The new Militia Law prescribes that 40 active Militiamen shall receive a certain
amount of yearly training; and that, in addition to these, the officers and non-commissioned
officers of all the battalions of regular (Reserve) Militia throughout Canada shall receive a
certain amount of yearly training, and it will be necessary, in order to give effect to that Law,
that the Canadian Government should in some manner provide at least 15,000 rifles for the
use of the officers and non-commissioned officers above specified, over and above the arms
already distributed to the 40 000 active Militiamen.

(Signed,)

P. L. MACDOUGALL,
Colonel, Adj. Gen. of Militia.

The Hon. the Minister of
Militia and Defence of Canada.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General.

(Copy.)

Canada,
No. 75.

DOWNING STREET,
24th April, 1869.

SIR,—You are no doubt in possession of the correspondence noted in the margin which
C. O. to Delegates, took place between this office and Sir G. E. Cartier and Mr. McDougall in
22nd Feb., 1869, February and March last, on the subject of two War Office letters, dated
enclosing W. O. respectively the 11th and 12th of February; the first relating to the
Letters of 11th and 12th February, number of breech-loading arms, and the amount of ammunition necessary to
Sir E. Cartier and be held in Canada as a reserve; the second preferring a claim on the Cana-
Mr. McDougall, in dian Government on account of damage caused to the Enfield rifles issued
reply 23rd March, on loan to the Canadian Government and lately returned into store.
1869.

I now enclose you your information copies of the later correspondence C. O. to W. O.,
on the subject, which passed between this Office and the War Office, subse- 10th April, 1868.
quent to the return to Canada of Sir G. E. Cartier and Mr. McDougall. W. O. to C. O.,
20th April, 1869.

From the War Office letter of the 20th instant, you will learn the decision adopted by the Secretary of State for War in regard to these questions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed,)

GRANVILLE.

Governor General,
The Right Honorable
Sir John Young, Baronet,
&c., &c., &c.

Sir F. Rogers to Under Secretary of State, War Office.

(Copy.)

DOWNING STREET,

10th April, 1869.

SIR,—I am directed by Earl Granville to acquaint you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Caldwell, that he referred to Sir G. E. Cartier and to Mr. McDougall, the Canadian delegates in this country, the questions raised in the letters from the War Office of the 11th and 12th of February last, the first relating to the number of breech-loading arms and the amount of ammunition necessary to be held in Canada as a reserve: the second preferring a claim on the Canadian Government for £847 13s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on account of damage caused to the Enfield rifles issued on loan to the Canadian Government and lately returned into store.

I am desired to enclose for Mr. Cardwell's consideration a copy of the 23rd March, 1869. reply which has been received from these gentlemen.

Lord Granville concurs in the opinion that it would be inadvisable at present that the contemplated reduction of rifles and ammunition should be made, and he would recommend that these stores should be retained in the Dominion until the autumn.

It will be observed that the Delegates are unable to give any opinion as to the course which the Canadian Government may wish to pursue with regard to the purchase of any of the arms now in store, but that this question will be submitted to the Canadian Government on their return to Ottawa.

With regard to the question of payment for damages caused to the Enfield rifles issued on loan, I am desired to request to be informed of the decision which Mr. Secretary Caldwell may adopt on the present application of the Canadian Delegates.

I am, &c.,
(Signed,)

F. ROGERS.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Sir Edward Lugard to Sir F. Rogers.

(Copy.)

WAR OFFICE,
20th April, 1869.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Cardwell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant with its enclosure from Sir Geo. E. Cartier and Mr. McDougall, the Canadian delegates in this country, on the questions raised in the letters from this Department of the 11th and 12th February last, respecting the number of breech-loading arms, and the amount of ammunition necessary to be held in Canada as a reserve, and the claim on the Canadian Government for £847 13s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., on account of damage caused to the Enfield rifles, issued on loan to the Canadian Government, and lately returned into store.

On the first point I have only to refer you to my letter of the 11th February last, from which it will be seen that the recommendation of Earl Granville that no reduction of the arms and ammunition should be made at present, or until the Canadian Government have had the opportunity of determining whether they will purchase them, has been complied with by anticipation.

On the second point, I am to refer you to the report of Lieutenant General Sir C. Windham, dated the 22nd January, 1869, (among the enclosures to my letter of the 12th February), by which His Lordship will perceive that the damage which the Rifles in question had sustained is not to be attributed to mere "wear and tear" as contended by Sir C. E. Cartier and Wm. McDougall, but to want of proper care of them.

Lord Granville will also find it stated in the same report that these arms were duly inspected upon being returned into store in presence of the Militia Officer on the part of the Canadian Government, and that the sum claimed represents the actual amount of damages and deficiencies ascertained to be due.

Under these circumstances Mr. Cardwell feels that he has no alternative but to adhere to the claim.

I am, &c.,

(Signed,)

EDWARD LUGARD.

Sir Frederic Rogers, Baronet,
&c., &c., &c.

28th April, 1869.

(Copy.)

Communicate to Privy Council.

The actual numbers stated in this despatch, as to be withdrawn, and to remain respectively, are the same as those stated in the former despatches.

(Signed,)

J. Y.

Canada
No. 65.

DOWNING STREET,
14th April, 1869.

SIR,—Her Majesty's Government have had recently under their consideration the distribution of Her Majesty's Troops among the British Colonies, and the rate of contribution to be paid to the Imperial Exchequer by the Colonies in which they are placed.

2. As nearly one third of these Troops were, till lately, stationed in Canada, it need hardly be said that it became in the first instance necessary to consider what force should at present be retained in the Dominion, and on what terms.

3. In determining these questions, their attention has been particularly directed to the despatch No. 95, of the 17th June, 1865, in which Mr. Caldwell conveyed to Lord Monck the decision of Lord Palmerston's Government, on various questions of importance respecting the defence of the then Province of Canada; and also to the minutes of Committee of Council transmitted respectively in Lord Monck's despatch No. 96, of January 2nd, 1868, and in your despatch No. 9, of January 21st, 1869. The former of these minutes relates to the Naval Force then in Canadian waters, the latter to the withdrawal of troops. In both it is urged that an exceptional amount of Military and Naval assistance is due to Canada as being exposed to danger, not from any colonial cause, but from the desire of the persons called Fenians to obtain some basis of operations against Great Britain.

4. Her Majesty's Government trust that the annoyance arising from the organization of Fenianism in the United States is fast disappearing.

This organization founded on the hostile feelings entertained by numerous Irishmen in the United States, against Great Britain, derived its substantial importance from the circumstance that large armies had been recently disbanded, and were not yet thoroughly absorbed in the pursuits of peace. Such a state of things must always contain elements of danger to a neighbouring country; and so far as the Canadians suffer from it, they suffer not so much from their connexion with Great Britain as from an unhappy, I hope a passing accident of their geographical position.

5. With this observation which I am by no means inclined to press too far, I proceed to the various matters on which I have to convey to you the conclusions of Her Majesty's Government.

6. In the despatch to which I have already alluded, Lord Monck was informed that if the Province of Canada undertook the primary liability for certain works of defence there indicated, Her Majesty's Government would apply to Parliament for a guarantee of the sum required for that purpose; but that the desire and decision of the Provincial Legislature ought to be pronounced before any such application should be made.

7. At the wish of the Canadian Ministers the matter was reserved for the Parliament of the Dominion, which has now passed an Act authorizing the Governor to raise a sum of £1,100,000 for the proposed purposes, and under the Imperial guarantee.

8. Without anticipating any arrangements of detail which may prove necessary, I will only here say that the present Government are prepared to redeem the pledge of their predecessors, and will introduce into Parliament a Bill authorizing the contemplated guarantee.

9. But they are also of opinion that the military and naval assistance hitherto given to Canada under circumstances which they hope are now passing away must at once be very largely reduced. The conclusions at which Her Majesty's Government have arrived, you will find in the annexed extract from a letter which I have received from the Secretary of State for War.

10. In the course of the summer, therefore, it is intended to withdraw from Ontario and Quebec, one Regiment of Cavalry, three Batteries of Field, and three Batteries of Garrison Artillery, and three Battalions of Infantry, and from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick two Battalions of Infantry and one Field Battery.

11. Halifax will be considered as an Imperial station, and for its defence about 2,000 men will for the present be left in Nova Scotia.

12. About 4,000 men will for the present be left in Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. But this must be considered a temporary arrangement; and I am disposed to concur with Mr. Caldwell in the opinion that it will soon become unnecessary to maintain any British force in those Provinces, beyond what may be required for the training of the Militia and Volunteers, and the maintenance of Schools of Instruction.

The terms on which any of Her Majesty's Regiments can be retained in the Colony for this or any other purpose will be a matter of future consideration. Meantime the Secretary of State for War, informs me that Colonial Governments will receive all possible assistance in obtaining at their own charge the services of such commissioned and non-commissioned officers as they may desire to employ for the organization or instruction of any local force, for the construction, inspection or maintenance of fortifications or for any other matter connected with military defence. The War Department will also be ready when practicable to furnish them at cost price with such arms, ammunition and military stores as they may need; and though the matter may be of less interest to Canada than to some other Colonies, I enclose a copy of regulations under which well conducted privates will be allowed to take service as policemen, or otherwise if required, in the Colonies in which they have been stationed.

13. I have further to point out to you that in the opinion of the Secretary of State for War, any body of men who are to be a charge upon the Imperial Exchequer ought to be a body raised for the general service of Her Majesty, and not limited either by the conditions of enlistment or by practical necessity to a particular Colony. The Canadian Rifles do not, as you are aware, satisfy this condition, and Mr. Cardwell is accordingly about to reduce four companies of that corps, and to take measures to relieve the Imperial treasury from the cost of supporting it. It becomes matter for the consideration of the Local Government, whether that corps, or any part of it, useful as I believe it to be local purposes, shall be maintained at the expense of the colony.

14. Lastly, I have to refer to the naval force to be maintained during the ensuing summer on the Canadian lakes, and on the St. Lawrence.

15. In the despatch of the 17th of June, which I have already cited, and to which Lord Monck's Executive Council refer, Mr. Cardwell observed that "apart from any question of expediency the convention subsisting between this country and the United States rendered it impossible for either nation to place more than the specified number of armed vessels on the lakes in time of peace."

16. The number of armed British vessels on the lakes, with the concurrence of the Government of the United States, has as you are aware, been in excess of the number allowed by the arrangement of 1817. Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the time has arrived, or may very shortly arrive, when there would be no sufficient reason for expecting the

acquiescence of the United States in this state of things. They consider therefore, that the vessels of war on the lakes which now on both sides, exceed the number allowed by the convention, should within a reasonable time be reduced to those numbers.

17. Her Majesty's Government are willing that the three Imperial gunboats should, if the Canadian Government desire it, be replaced this summer on the lakes, or on the St. Lawrence, and it will be for them to consider what further armed naval force, not prohibited by the terms of the arrangement, should be kept up in Canadian waters; But Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that this must now be done entirely at the expense of the Dominion.

18. With regard to the observation contained in the report of the Committee of the Privy Council, that Canada has no power to commission vessels of war, I would call your attention to the Colonial Naval Defence Act of 1865, which was intended to provide against that difficulty. The Council do not state in what respect it is found to be imperfect.

19. I have to request that you will lay this despatch before your Ministers. They must be fully aware of the principles which Parliament will require to be applied to Imperial expenditure for the defence of the Colonial Empire. In the gradual, if not tardy, application of these principles to British North America, they will I hope, recognize the earnest desire of Her Majesty's Government to do justice, both to the exceptional circumstances which have hitherto existed in that part of the British Empire, and to the admirable spirit which has been shown by the Government and Country of Canada in providing for their own protection.

I have, &c.,

(Signed),

GRANVILLE.

Governor General

The Right Honorable

Sir John Young, Bart., G. C. B.

(Copy.)

Extract of letter from Mr. Secretary Cardwell to Earl Granville.

WAR OFFICE,

25th January, 1869.

"On looking at the documents of which I enclose a copy, entitled Distribution of Regimental Establishments, 1868-9, I find that of the whole number of men voted for the current year, 50,025 are entered under the heading "Total for the Colonies," which includes the force in Japan. Of this number, viz.: 50,025, no less than 16,185 are entered for British North America, under the several heads of Canada, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland."

"Of this last number 3,592 have already been recalled, and I have had submitted to me a letter from the Colonial office, dated the 8th ult., stating that in the opinion of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, a further reduction of the troops serving in the Dominion of Canada might take place so as to leave 5,000 men in Quebec and Ontario, 2,000 men in Nova Scotia, and 1,650 in New Brunswick. I also learn that in pursuance of a pledge given by the Government of Lord Palmerston in 1865, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government would ask Parliament to guarantee a loan of which the Colonial Government would undertake the primary responsibility and which was to be raised for the purpose of defraying the cost of certain works of fortifications required for the defence of the Dominion, an Act was passed in the month of May last, by the Legislature of Canada, for raising a loan of £1,100,000 accordingly. This Act is still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. But the pledge of the Imperial guarantee having been given upon the supposition that greater exertions than heretofore would be made by the Local Government to provide for the military defence of the Dominion, thus relieving the Imperial Exchequer from financial liability in this respect, to a greater extent than has as yet been accomplished, I cannot but think that when this guarantee is called for by the Dominion, especially considering the existing friendly relation between ourselves and the Government and people of the United States; Her Majesty's Government ought to effect a larger reduction of the force than is contemplated in the Duke of Buckingham's letter."

"In the year 1851, Earl Grey, then Secretary of States for War and the Colonies, addressing the Governor General of the British North American Provinces, wrote as follows: "Canada (in common with the other British Provinces in North America) now possesses in the most ample and complete manner in which it is possible that she should enjoy it, the advantage of self-government in all that relates to her internal affairs."

"It appears to Her Majesty's Government that this advantage ought to carry with it corresponding responsibilities; and that the time is now come when the people of Canada must be called upon to take upon themselves a larger share than they have hitherto done of expenses which are incurred on this account, and for their advantage."

"Of these expenses by far the heaviest charge which falls upon this country, is that incurred for the military protection of the Province."

"Regarding Canada as a most important and valuable part of the Empire, and believing the maintenance of the connection between the Mother Country and the Colony, to be of the highest advantage to both, it is far from being the view of Her Majesty's Government that the general military power of the Empire is not to be used in the protection of this part of Her Majesty's Dominions."

"But looking to the rapid progress which Canada is now making in wealth and population, and to the prosperity which she at this moment enjoys, it is the conviction of Her Majesty's Government, that it is only due to the people of this country, that they should now be relieved from a large proportion of the charge which has hitherto been imposed upon them for the protection of a Colony now well able to do much towards protecting itself."

"In adopting this principle I need hardly observe to you that Her Majesty's Government would merely be reverting to the former Colonial policy of this country."

"Again in 1853, the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, acquainted the Governor General that Her Majesty's Government thought it necessary to reduce the force then in Canada, that is to say, in the present Provinces of Ontario and Quebec from 4,110 to 3,170 bayonets; and pointed out to him that in doing so they were only reducing the Garrisons of Canada to the establishments of 1792 and 1822."

"Very exceptional circumstances have no doubt, prevented the application of these principles to the British North American Provinces during the last few years; but these circumstances have in my opinion ceased, and I am not aware of any sufficient reason which should prevent our returning to the policy laid down in the despatches to which I have above referred."

"The Government of the new Dominion has displayed an anxiety to improve the organization of its own defences which is deserving of encouragement on our part; and, in doing so, has availed itself of the assistance of some of Her Majesty's regiments in training the officers and men of its own volunteers and militia. The reductions which I now propose to your Lordships will not interfere with these arrangements."

I shall be glad therefore to be favoured with your Lordships opinion, whether it is necessary that any portion of Her Majesty's troops should be left in the Dominion of Canada beyond such as it may be deemed expedient to retain with a view to the training of the militia and the volunteers, and the maintenance of the schools of instruction."

"This number would be sufficient in any case of emergency to furnish the garrison of Quebec."

* * * * *

"Upon the whole therefore with a view to the preparation of the estimates for the ensuing year I should propose that the following troops should be immediately recalled from the Colonies, and that the addition to their number to those which at present constitute the whole Force in this Country should be borne in mind in considering what number it is necessary to include in the votes to be submitted to Parliament, viz :

From Canada.

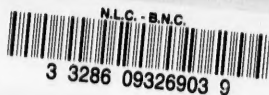
One Regiment of Cavalry, Three Battalions of Infantry.

From Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Two Battalions of Infantry.

* * * * *

"I further propose the withdrawal from Canada of three Batteries of Field and three of Garrison Artillery; and from Nova Scotia of one Field Battery; which will cause a total reduction of 1,124 artillerymen."



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